

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

USA,

Plaintiff,

v.

SEALED,

Defendant.

Case No. 3:24-cv-270

ORDER DENYING MOTION TO
PARTIALLY QUASH (ECF NO. 7)

This case involves a U.S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division (“WHD”) investigation of RayCo Drywall for violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). In June 2024, U.S. Magistrate Judge Baldwin signed a warrant for the inspection of the establishment, which WHD executed a few days later. (ECF Nos. 4; 7.) RayCo filed a motion requesting that the Court partially quash the warrant or, in the alternative, suppress and return WHD’s review of RayCo’s privileged documents. (ECF No. 7.) WHD opposed the motion. (ECF No. 9.) For the following reasons, the Court denies RayCo’s motion to quash.

I. Facts

In September 2023, WHD began investigating RayCo for FLSA violations. (ECF No. 9 at 3.) Between September 2023 and February 2024, WHD requested records from RayCo related to the investigation. (*Id.*) RayCo withheld some of these records and provided redacted or incomplete versions of others. (*Id.*) In part because of RayCo’s failure to produce documents, WHD applied for a warrant in June 2024, which this Court granted. (*Id.* at 4; ECF Nos. 3, 4.)

The warrant provided that WHD could enter RayCo’s premises to inspect and investigate the workplace for violations of the overtime and recordkeeping

1 sections of the FLSA. (ECF No. 4 at 2.) The warrant provided that methods of
2 inspection would include “transcribing, copying, transferring, recording, and
3 downloading (including removing for all such purposes) all relevant records and
4 data in whatever form maintained” and listed the types of records that would be
5 included as relevant. (*Id.* at 2-3.) Finally, the warrant provided that the inspection
6 would be completed within five working days. (*Id.* at 4.)

7 **II. Discussion**

8 **A. The Warrant is Sufficiently Particular.**

9 RayCo argues that the warrant should be quashed as overbroad and
10 lacking particularity because it is not sufficiently limited to any date range. (ECF
11 No. 7 at 6.) In its motion, RayCo relies on a single case from the Eastern District
12 of Michigan to support its argument. *In re Search of Recs., Info., & Data*
13 *Associated with 14 Email Addresses Controlled by Google, LLC*, 438 F. Supp. 3d
14 771 (E.D. Mich. 2020). But as WHD points out, this case involved a criminal
15 warrant and therefore is not instructive to the Court’s analysis of the
16 administrative warrant in this case. (ECF No. 9 at 8-9.)

17 In its reply, RayCo points to more cases that involved criminal search
18 warrants and fails to explain why these should be persuasive in a case involving
19 an administrative warrant. (ECF No. 10 at 5-8 (discussing *United States v. SDI*
20 *Future Health, Inc.*, 568 F.3d 684 (9th Cir. 2009); *United States v. Smith*, 424 F.3d
21 992 (9th Cir. 2005); *United States v. Kow*, 58 F.3d 423 (9th Cir. 1995)). In *United*
22 *States v. SDI Future Health*, the Ninth Circuit specifically noted that a doctrine
23 applicable to administrative searches did not apply to the criminal search at issue
24 in that case. 568 F.3d at 695.

25 The Fourth Amendment requires warrants to “particularly describe the
26 place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.” U.S. Const. amend
27 IV. Administrative search warrants generally fall within the purview of the Fourth
28 Amendment. *Camara v. Mun. Ct. of City & Cnty. of San Francisco*, 387 U.S. 523,

1 534 (1967). However, administrative warrants do not require the same showing
2 of probable cause as criminal search warrants. *Plum Creek Lumber Co. v. Hutton*,
3 608 F.2d 1283, 1287 (9th Cir. 1979); *Marshall v. Barlow's, Inc.*, 436 U.S. 307,
4 320 (1978). “For purposes of an administrative search [], probable cause
5 justifying the issuance of a warrant may be based not only on specific evidence
6 of an existing violation but also on a showing that ‘reasonable or administrative
7 standards for conducting an . . . inspection are satisfied with respect to a
8 particular [establishment]’”. *Marshall*, 436 U.S. at 320 (quoting *Camara v.*
9 *Municipal Court*, 387 U.S. 523, 538 (1967)).

10 The warrant here is sufficiently particular to satisfy the Fourth
11 Amendment. The warrant was made pursuant to Section 111(a) of the Fair Labor
12 Standards Act, which gives the Department of Labor broad authority to
13 “investigate and gather data regarding the wages, hours, and other conditions
14 and practices of employment in any industry subject to this chapter” and
15 authority to “enter and inspect such places and such records (and make such
16 transcriptions thereof), question such employees, and investigate such facts,
17 conditions, practices, or matters as he may deem necessary or appropriate to
18 determine whether any person has violated any provision of this chapter, or
19 which may aid in the enforcement of the provisions of this chapter.” 29 U.S.C.
20 § 211(a). The warrant in this case specified the premises to be searched, the types
21 of records to be searched, and the methods of inspection. (ECF No. 4 at 2.)
22 RayCo’s assertions of overbreadth and particularity are insufficient to render the
23 administrative warrant invalid.

24 **B. Privilege claims**

25 RayCo also claims that the warrant contains insufficient protections to
26 prevent the review of privileged documents, and requests that the Court order
27 WHD to permit RayCo to review the documents and prepare a privilege log of the
28 document seized. (ECF No. 7 at 7-8.) RayCo fails to provide any authority or

1 caselaw in its motion supporting this argument. (*Id.*)

2 WHD argues that RayCo's vague claims of attorney-client privilege fail to
3 show that heightened protections beyond those contained in the rules of
4 professional conduct are necessary. (ECF No. 9 at 9.) WHD explains that it gave
5 RayCo the opportunity to provide WHD with a privilege log for the seized
6 electronic records, but RayCo refused to do so. (*Id.* at 10.) RayCo contends that
7 many of the documents seized were paper documents which it no longer has
8 access to, and that WHD has not provided a link to review those documents. (ECF
9 No. 10 at 8.)

10 The party asserting the privilege is obliged by federal law to establish the
11 privileged nature of the communications, and, if necessary, to segregate the
12 privileged information from the non-privileged information. *United States v.*
13 *Ruehle*, 583 F.3d 600, 609 (9th Cir. 2009). "Under federal law, the attorney-client
14 privilege is strictly construed." *Id.* RayCo has not identified with particularity
15 which of the documents in WHD's possession are within his claim of privilege.
16 Furthermore, WHD has submitted declarations explaining that they gave RayCo
17 multiple opportunities to identify the privileged information and provide a
18 privilege log for the seized records during and after the execution of the search
19 warrant. (ECF Nos. 9 at 10; 9-2 at 5; 9-3 at 2-4.) WHD has agreed to forgo
20 reviewing the evidence obtained during the search warrant while the parties
21 resolve their concerns over privileged information. (ECF No. 9-4 at 2.) The Court
22 therefore finds that RayCo's concerns over possibly privileged communications
23 may be resolved by the parties and are not sufficient to warrant the relief
24 requested in this motion.

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III. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the Court DENIES RayCo's motion to partially quash (ECF No. 7).

Dated this 22nd day of November 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne R. Traum".

ANNE R. TRAUM
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE